

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 have been canceled and claims 14-33 have been added; these new claims find support throughout the specification, and particularly at page 5 (3rd full paragraph), page 8 (center), page 10 (last paragraph), pages 15 (last paragraph) - 17, page 19 (2nd full paragraph), pages 20 - 24, pages 42 - 43, page 45 (1st full paragraph), page 54, Example 1 (page 55), Example 3 (pages 56 - 58), and Example 5 (page 59); no new matter has been added.

Restriction and Election

Applicants acknowledge the restriction of claimed subject matter to be examined, and the election of species, as set forth on pages 2 - 3 of the Office Action. There are currently no claims pending drawn to the subject matter of groups I - III, as claims 1-13 have been canceled, and new claims 14-33 drawn to methods have been added. However, the newly added method claims recite amino acid sequences disclosed in the specification, and it is respectfully submitted that a search of these claims should hopefully be not substantially different nor more burdensome than a search of Group II (drawn to polypeptides) as identified in the Office Action.

If an election of species in the currently presented claims is required, Applicant provisionally elects a method comprising providing an isolated soluble polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5. Applicant respectfully requests that claims drawn to SEQ ID NO:5, which is amino acids 22 through 227 of SEQ ID NO:2 as shown on page 8 of the specification, be examined together with claims drawn to amino acids 24 through 227 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 25 through 227 of SEQ ID NO:2. These sequences are closely related, differing by only a few amino acids at their N-terminal end, as shown in the following alignment. Therefore, a search based on SEQ ID NO:5 should serve to identify art related to the other two sequences as well, and examining this subject matter together should not place any additional burden on the Examiner.

	1					50
SEQ ID NO2	mrpgtalqav	llavllvglr	aATGRLLSGQ	PVCRGGTQRP	CYKVIYFHDT	
SEQ ID NO5	~~~~~	~~~~~	~ATGRLLSGQ	PVCRGGTQRP	CYKVIYFHDT	
24-227 of NO2	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~GRLLSGQ	PVCRGGTQRP	CYKVIYFHDT	
25-227 of NO2	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~RLLSGQ	PVCRGGTQRP	CYKVIYFHDT	

	51					100
SEQ ID NO2	SRRLNFEEAK	EACRRDGGQL	VSIESEDEQK	LIEKFIENLL	PSDGDFWIGL	
SEQ ID NO5	SRRLNFEEAK	EACRRDGGQL	VSIESEDEQK	LIEKFIENLL	PSDGDFWIGL	
24-227 of NO2	SRRLNFEEAK	EACRRDGGQL	VSIESEDEQK	LIEKFIENLL	PSDGDFWIGL	
25-227 of NO2	SRRLNFEEAK	EACRRDGGQL	VSIESEDEQK	LIEKFIENLL	PSDGDFWIGL	

Amendment and Response to Restriction Requirement dated 03 November 2003

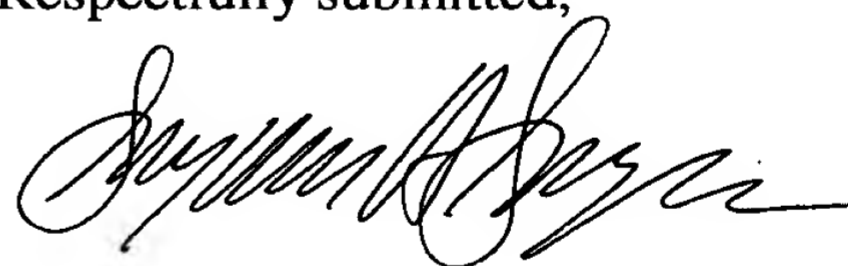
			101						150
	SEQ	ID	NO2	RRREEKQSNS	TACQDLYAWT	DGSISQFRNW	YVDEPSCGSE	VCVVMYHQPS	
	SEQ	ID	NO5	RRREEKQSNS	TACQDLYAWT	DGSISQFRNW	YVDEPSCGSE	VCVVMYHQPS	
24-227	of	NO2	RRREEKQSNS	TACQDLYAWT	DGSISQFRNW	YVDEPSCGSE	VCVVMYHQPS		
25-227	of	NO2	RRREEKQSNS	TACQDLYAWT	DGSISQFRNW	YVDEPSCGSE	VCVVMYHQPS		
			151						200
	SEQ	ID	NO2	APAGIGGPYM	FQWNDDRCNM	KNNFICKYSD	EKPAVPSREA	EGEETELTTP	
	SEQ	ID	NO5	APAGIGGPYM	FQWNDDRCNM	KNNFICKYSD	EKPAVPSREA	EGEETELTTP	
24-227	of	NO2	APAGIGGPYM	FQWNDDRCNM	KNNFICKYSD	EKPAVPSREA	EGEETELTTP		
25-227	of	NO2	APAGIGGPYM	FQWNDDRCNM	KNNFICKYSD	EKPAVPSREA	EGEETELTTP		
			201						250
	SEQ	ID	NO2	VLPEETQEED	AKKTFKESRE	AALNLAY~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	
	SEQ	ID	NO5	VLPEETQEED	AKKTFKESRE	AALNLAYili	psipllllllv	vttvvcwwi...	
24-227	of	NO2	VLPEETQEED	AKKTFKESRE	AALNLAY~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	
25-227	of	NO2	VLPEETQEED	AKKTFKESRE	AALNLAY~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is respectfully requested to note that an Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted by Applicant separately.

If a telephone interview would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application, Applicants' attorney invites the Examiner to contact her at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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